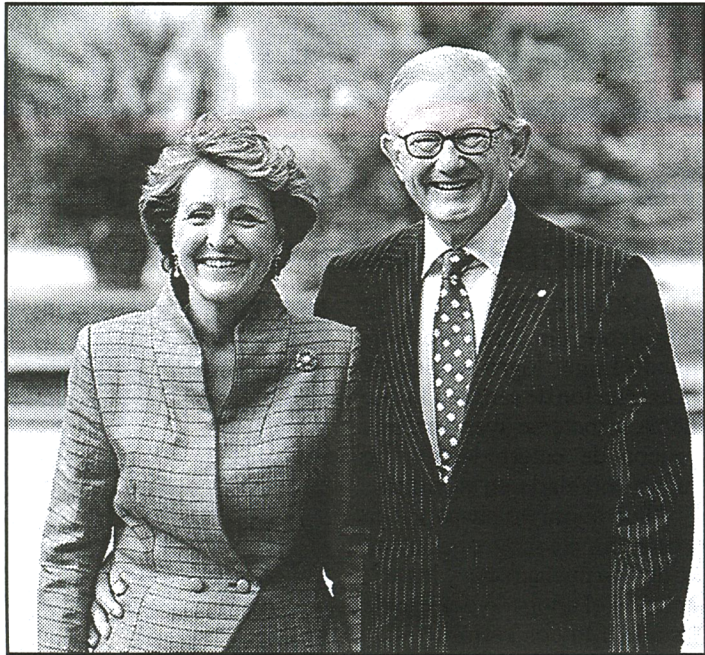


# Aruba's Archaeological Museum confirms Princess Magriet of the Netherlands will officially open the new facility



Princess Magriet and her husband Pieter van Vollenhoven.

Staff members of Aruba's newly completed Archaeological Museum confirmed on Thursday, June 25 that Princess Magriet, sister of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, will be their special guest with her husband, Professor Mr. Pieter van Vollenhoven, and officiate over the opening on July 26. Princess Magriet will be on Aruba representing the royal family during the bi-annual Kingdom Games, which Aruba is hosting this year.

The museum, which was ten years in the making, is one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the Caribbean, and Magriet Lee-Tromp, who is organizing the opening festivities, announced it will be a major event to which all islanders are invited, free of charge.

A spectacular show on the plaza of the museum with performers from Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire and St. Maarten will precede the "cutting of the ribbon," beginning at 6:00 p.m. Aruban band Le Groove will open the show, with over 100

island performers participating in the event. Youth Extreme will close the entertainment program for the night, which finishes at 10:00 p.m. Following the official opening ceremonies, the museum will conduct three days of special tours, lectures and activities geared to all ages to acquaint islanders and visitors with the new museum and regional history.

Suzette Boekhoudt of the Archaeological Museum explained that along with the permanent expositions, the opening will include the first of regularly changing temporary subjects, this time examining the historic section of Oranjestad known as "Rancho." Yolanda Richardson of the IPA and Historian Kees de Jong participated in the creation of this special exhibit, which include audio/visual effects devised by international prize-winning island artist Ryan Oduber.

The opening will also feature a number of pieces recently returned to Aruba which had been part of the inventory of the Rijksmu-



seum Volkenkunde in Leiden, the Netherlands, as most archaeologists who first started digs on Aruba came from the Netherlands and took their finds back with them. A special section dedicated to the works of contemporary artists interpreting regional history will feature a six month exposi-

tion of the work of noted island sculptor Ciro Abath.

Chief Curator Arminda Ruiz expressed the staff's gratitude to the European Development Fund, Government of Aruba, Ministry of Labor, Culture and Sport, Finance Ministry, UNOCA, Cede Aruba, and the Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds for

their financial support in the establishment of what will be the premier archaeological museum of the Caribbean. They urged island residents to participate in the grand opening festivities of this landmark occasion; the museum is open to visitors at present on a limited schedule.